CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1. A method, comprising:

2   receiving meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including

3   descriptions of a plurality of data files currently being broadcasted or to be broadcasted by

4   the server system;

5   selecting in response to a content rating table a data file described by the meta-data,

6   the content rating table generated responsive to data files previously accessed; and

7   displaying the selected data file on a personalized channel on a display device.

1   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected data file is one of a currently

2   broadcasted data file and a stored data file.

1   3. The method of claim 1 further comprising rating data files in response to

2   reading the content rating table.

1   4. The method of claim 3 further comprising selecting a data file based upon the

2   rating of the data file and storing the selected data file in a storage device to create a stored

3   data file.

1   5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

2   comparing the ratings of currently broadcasted data files and stored data files; and

3   selecting the currently broadcasted data file or stored data file with the highest

4   rating.

1   6. The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying the selected data file on a

2   personalized channel on a display device.

1   7. The method of claim 4 wherein a currently broadcasted data file is an immediate

2   viewing data file and is automatically selected.

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1   8. The method of claim 7 wherein if an immediate viewing data file is not selected

2 then a stored data file is selected.

1   9. The method of claim 8 wherein if neither an immediate viewing data file or a

2 stored data file is selected then a best current data file option is selected.

1   10. The method of claim 9 further comprising displaying the selected data file on a

2 personalized channel on a display device.

1   11. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of data files comprise at least one

2 of video information, graphical information, audio information, multi-media information

3 or textual information.

1   12. An apparatus, comprising:

2   a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;

3   a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface

4 coupled to receive data files and meta-data from a server system; and

5   a storage device coupled to the processor, the storage device having sequences of

6 instructions stored therein, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to:

7   receive meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including

8 descriptions of a plurality of data files currently being broadcasted or to be broadcasted by

9 the server system;

10   select in response to a content rating table a data file described by the meta-data,

11 the content rating table generated responsive to data files previously accessed; and

12   display the selected data file on a personalized channel on a display device.

1   13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the selected data file is one of a currently

2 broadcasted data file and a stored data file.

1   14. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising rating data files in response to

2 the content rating table.

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1   15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising selecting a data file based upon

2   the rating of the data file and storing the selected data file in the storage device to create a

3   stored data file.

1   16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

2   comparing the ratings of currently broadcasted data files and stored data files; and

3   selecting the currently broadcasted data file or stored data file with the highest

4   rating.

1   17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the selected data file is displayed on a

2   personalized channel on a display device.

1   18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein a currently broadcasted data file is an

2   immediate viewing data file and is automatically selected.

1   19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein if an immediate viewing data file is not

2   selected then a stored data file is selected.

1   20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein if neither an immediate viewing data file or

2   a stored data file is selected then a best current data file option is selected.

1   21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the selected data file is displayed on a

2   personalized channel on a display device.

1   22. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the plurality of data files comprise at least

2   one of video information, graphical information, audio information, multi-media

3   information or textual information.

1   23. A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when

2   executed by a processor cause the processor to:

3   receive meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including

4   descriptions of a plurality of data files currently being broadcasted or to be broadcasted by

5   the server system;

6   select in response to a content rating table a data file described by the meta-data,

7   the content rating table generated responsive to data files previously accessed; and

8   display the selected data file on a personalized channel on a display device.

1   24. The machine-readable medium of claim 23 wherein the selected data file is one

2   of a currently broadcasted data file and a stored data file.

1   25. The machine-readable medium of claim 23 further comprising instructions to

2   rate data files in response to the content rating table.

1   26. The machine-readable medium of claim 25 further comprising instructions to:

2   select a data file based upon the rating of the data file; and

3   store the selected data file in the storage device to create a stored data file.

1   27. The machine-readable medium of claim 26 further comprising instructions to:

2   compare the ratings of currently broadcasted data files and stored data files; and

3   select the currently broadcasted data file or stored data file with the highest rating.

1   28. The machine-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising instructions to

2   display the selected data file on a personalized channel on a display device.

1   29. The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein a currently broadcasted

2   data file is an immediate viewing data file and is automatically selected.

1   30. The machine-readable medium of claim 29 wherein if an immediate viewing

2   data file is not selected then a stored data file is selected.

1   31. The machine-readable medium of claim 30 wherein if neither an immediate

2   viewing data file or a stored data file is selected then a best current data file option is

3   selected.

1   32. The machine-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the selected data file is

2   displayed on a personalized channel on a display device.